

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). A DNA sequence encoding a protein capable of binding to TRAF₁ selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a cDNA sequence of the herein designated IREN comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4; and

~~(b) a cDNA sequence of the herein designated IREN comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5;~~

~~(c) a cDNA sequence of the herein designated IREN comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;~~

~~(d)~~ (b) a DNA sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the DNA ~~sequences~~ sequence defined in (a) ~~(c)~~.

2-4 (Cancelled)

5 (Previously Presented). A DNA sequence according to claim 1, comprising the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

6-9 (Cancelled)

10 (Currently Amended). A vector comprising a DNA sequence according to any one of claims 1, ~~2~~ and 5.

11 (Original). A vector according to claim 10 capable of being expressed in a eukaryotic host cell.

12 (Original). A vector according to claim 10 capable of being expressed in a prokaryotic host cell.

13 (Currently Amended). ~~Transformed~~ Isolated transformed eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cells containing a vector according to claim 10.

14-29 (Cancelled)

30 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for modulating the TRAF2 modulated/mediated effect on cells comprising, as active ingredient, a recombinant animal virus vector encoding a protein capable of binding a cell surface receptor and encoding at least one IREN protein encoded by any one of claims 1, ~~2~~ and 5.

31-32 (Cancelled)

33 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention or treatment of a pathological condition associated with NF- κ B induction or with any other activity mediated by TRAF2 or by other molecules to which a protein encoded by any one of claims 1, ~~2~~ and 5 binds, said composition comprising an effective amount of ~~a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4, or a DNA molecule coding for a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4~~ therefor, or a molecule capable of disrupting the interaction of said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4 with TRAF2 or any other molecule to which said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4 binds.

34-35 (Cancelled)

36 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition ~~for the prevention or treatment of a pathological condition associated with NF- κ B induction or with any other activity mediated by TRAF2 or by other molecules to which a protein encoded by a DNA according to claims 1, 2 or 5 binds,~~ said composition comprising an effective amount of a protein ~~encoded by SEQ ID NO:4, or a DNA molecule coding for a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4~~therefor, ~~or a molecule capable of disrupting the interaction of said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4 with TRAF2 or any other molecule to which said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4 binds.~~

37-46 (Cancelled)